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CREDITS

Manga Sayonara Blue
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This manga is to be read from Left to Right

Slowly, Blue strode amidst the gentle breeze
He stared at the other side of the road where his mother had left him with longing eyes like those of a little puppy.

Sayonara Blue

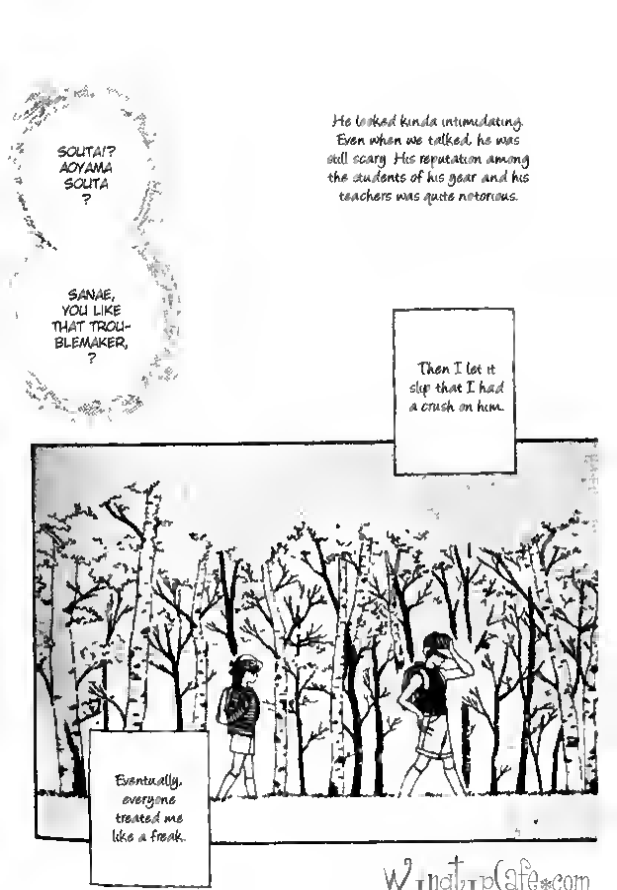
by Honda Keiko

Sayonara Blue

This work is dedicated to Souta, my only family, the most important person to me.

Aoyama Akira.

Clare
Ah
SORRY.
SANAE
YOU.
NOW
YOU MUST BE THINKING THAT I SUCK AT READING MAPS, RIGHT?
TOSS
N... NO !!
Kyaa
"A HIKE THAT ENDED UP IN GETTING LOST ALL THE FUN HAS BEEN RUINED."
"IT'S ALL SOUTA'S FAULT. EVEN WITH A MAP, WE'VE SPENT 2 HOURS ON A 5-MINUTE WALK."
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!?
NOT IN THE LEAST !
Just
GOOD.
THEN FOLLOW ME QUIETLY, GOT IT?


He looked kinda intimidating. Even when we talked, he was still scary. His reputation among the students of his year and his teachers was quite notorious.
SOUTA!? AOYAMA SOUTA ?
SANAE, YOU LIKE THAT TROUBLEMAKER, ?
Then I let it slip that I had a crush on him.
Eventually, everyone treated me like a freak.

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When it became a shrimp like me's turn to clean the blackboard...
I can't reach
SUNASHIMA, OUR TEACHER, PRACTICALLY WROTE ON THE TOP OF THE BOARD! HOW COULD YOU CLEAN IT?
WHAT A SELFISH MAN...
Souta-kun came to my rescue.
But
But even for Souta-kun... The top of the blackboard was 2 meters high.
Chalk dust flew around every time he jumped
His hair and shirt were covered with white...
JUMP
OH.
He couldn't reach it without jumping

Eh?
I'M ASKING YOU TO GO
ON A HIKE AT KODAMA MOUNTAIN
On the first day of our last summer break in elementary school
BANG
ARE YOU GOING OR NOT, SPIT IT OUT!
I'M GOING! Kyaa
we went out alone together for the first time.
I might be able to say it.
DARN IT.
Maybe
The words that I've been keeping to myself all this time.
I DON'T SEE ANY BLOODY TRAIL!!

GAHH!
WHAT A DARNED USELESS MAP! I'M TOTALLY LOST!!!!
OR MAYBE NOT
HE LOOKS MORE VIOLENT THAN EVER
Throw!!
"WHY? HOW COULD WE GET LOST AGAIN? AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE BACK-TRACKING THE SAME TRAIL? STUPID SOUTA!"
YOU DEFINITELY MUST BE THINKING THAT.
I... I SAID NO!
AHH!
Run
HEY !!
Stiff
AGHHHH
DOGGY! GIVE ME BACK MY MAP!!
Grab

"WITH A MAP OR NOT, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE ANYWAY."
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!!?
I'M NOT !!
HERE WE GO!
DON'T MOVE
Escape
Miss
Oh.
Pause
Walk
Walk
Walk
Walk

MAYBE
THAT DOG IS TRYING TO LEAD US SOMEWHERE
FOR A WHILE NOW,
I DON'T KNOW, EITHER--
SHE'S KEPT CHECKING WHETHER WE WERE FOLLOWING
AND ONLY CHOSE THE PATH THAT WE COULD WALK THROUGH EASILY
EH!
SHE'S WEARING A COLLAR.
SO SHE'S PROBABLY GOING BACK TO HER OWNER
SHE'S LEADING US SOMEWHERE? WHERE TO?
ARE WE HEADING TO THE TSUKIMISOU* FIELD?

*TSUKIMISOU = EVENING PRIMROSE.

Wuff
Please adopt her
SOMETHING IS ON HER COLLAR
A NOTE? PLEASE-
YOU MAY HAVE BEAUTIFUL FLUFFY FUR,
BUT YOU'RE SO THIN
YOUR OWNER MUST BE TREATING YOU BADLY
ARE YOU STILL GOING BACK TO HIM?
I can't
take care of her anymore.
ERM
ER
SOUTA-KUN
WHY DON'T WE FOLLOW HER?
IT'S GETTING DARK NOW

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SANAE YOU FEED HER TOO
T-TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT GOOD WITH DOGS. I'M SCARED OF THEM...
frustrated
COME ON LOOK AT HER GENTLE EYES
NO, I'M AFRAID OF HER EYES
AND HER MOUTH, TEETH, NAILS NOSE, SOUND AND SALIVA
THERE, THERE
SHE MISUNDERSTOOD YOU
sad
AH,
WHILE SHE'S WITH US,
SHALL WE NAME HER "BLUE"?
IT'S THE NAME OF THE PROTAGONIST IN THE NOVEL BY SOLITA-KUN'S FATHER
THAT WON THE NEW NOVELIST AWARD
BE MY GUEST
Solita's father is a rookie novelist

"Sayonara* Blue" was his debut work, and it won an award.

It is said that the plot is based on his real life, that his wife ran away from him before he was famous.

Blue, the innocent boy who searches for his mother, is the main character of the story.

But what's become the talk of the town is that.

This award helped him and his wife reconcile.

After that, both of them were invited to a talk show on TV.

I THINK MY SON MUST HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WAITING FOR ME LIKE "BLUE" IN THE NOVEL.

I'M SORRY BLUE IT'S MY FAULT

I WANT TO LIVE WITH MY SON AND "BLUE" AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Wuf Wuf

Wuf

*SAYONARA = GOOD BYE.

WH WHAT, BLUE?
MOVE !! I CAN'T PASS !!
NO--
SHOO SHOO
GRR
Grrrr
AL ALRIGHT, KEEP GROWLING, I'M GOING ANYWAY.
SANAE! !
HE'S PROBABLY GROWLING TO WARN YOU, BE CAREFUL!!
EH?
KYAAA!!
BREAK

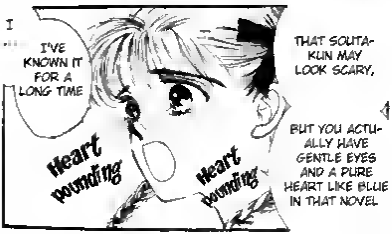
TOLD YA!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT !?
Arff
Arff Arff
whimper
I'M ALL RIGHT NOTHING IS BROKEN
Ah
I'VE FOUND IT! TSUKIMISOU FIELD!!
THERE IT IS!
NOW WE CAN READ THE MAP.
Who would have thought that the flower field was at our back!!
THIS SWAMP IS-- HERE?
YES, YES.

IF WE GO THIS WAY
—
Ah.
WE'LL FINALLY REACH KEIJOU SUBURB!!
YAHO!
WUFF WUFF
THAT! THAT'S AWESOME!
Wuff Wuff
IF WE GO BACK BY TRAIN.
...WE'LL GET HOME SAFELY
SANAE,
YOU'RE HUGGING A DOG, YOU KNOW?
Oh.
That's right. She's a nice scary.
NO PROBLEM
I LOVE BLUE NOW
Hug tightly!

THE WIND IS GETTING CHILLY.
COME CLOSER, HERE.
Umm...
ba-dump
SANAE.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
IF
I CON-FESS
NOW...

EH... !?
Ah
Heart Pounding
M...
ME TOO
MAYBE..
MAYBE HE...
WHO'S GONNA GO FIRST?
Ah,
YOU-- YOU FIRST
MAYBE SOUTA ALSO WANTS TO TELL ME
TOMOR-ROW,
I'M MOVING TO A TOWN VERY FAR FROM HERE

MY RUNAWAY MOM CAME BACK, AS YOU KNOW.
BUT BECAUSE OF HER WORK,
MY FATHER AND I DECIDED TO MOVE TO THE TOWN SHE HAS BEEN LIVING IN UNTIL NOW
SO, I'LL NEVER SEE YOU ANYMORE
EH
Heart Pounding
I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU ALL THIS TIME
BUT WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN


I...
I'VE KNOWN IT FOR A LONG TIME
Heart pounding
Heart pounding
THAT SOUTA-KUN MAY LOOK SCARY,
BUT YOU ACTU-ALLY HAVE GENTLE EYES AND A PURE HEART LIKE BLUE IN THAT NOVEL

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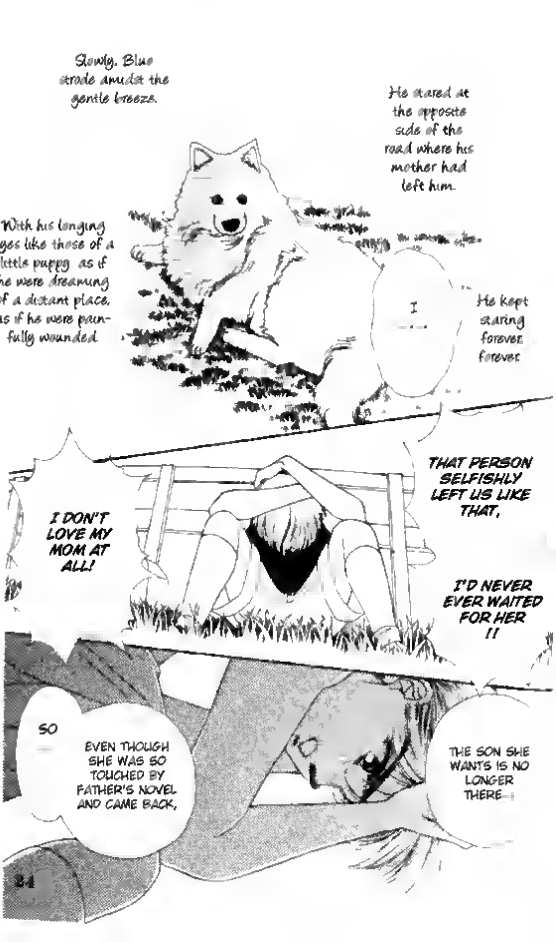
Slowly, Blue strode amidst the gentle breeze.
He stared at the opposite side of the road where his mother had left him.
With his longing eyes like those of a little puppy as if he were dreaming of a distant place, as if he were painfully wounded
I
He kept staring forever forever
THAT PERSON SELFISHLY LEFT US LIKE THAT,
I DON'T LOVE MY MOM AT ALL!
I'D NEVER EVER WAITED FOR HER !!
SO
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SO TOUCHED BY FATHER'S NOVEL AND CAME BACK,
THE SON SHE WANTS IS NO LONGER THERE—

I DON'T WANT TO BE THAT BLUE!
TELL HER HOW FURIOUS I WAS WITH HER,
HOW I DESPISED HER,
HOW MUCH I HATED HER!
AND HOW RESENTFUL WE'VE BEEN!
SOLITA-KUN !!
I'M NOT BLUE
IF I START LIVING WITH HER, EVENTUALLY I MUST TELL HER THE TRUTH.
I'M NOT THE SON WHO WANTS TO LOVE HER AGAIN
BECAUSE I'M AFRAID OF BEING LEFT BEHIND AGAIN.
I'M SCARED OF BEING DISAP-POINTED

EVEN SO, ALL I CAN DO IS
JUST THIS ONE THING
TO LIVE TOGETHER, THE THREE OF US
ONLY... THAT
Lick
IT'S GREAT
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING
YOU SHOULD TALK TO YOUR MOTHER FROM YOUR OWN HEART
WHAT-EVER IS ON YOUR MIND AT THAT MOMENT

SO,
PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID
SHE WILL DEFINITELY UNDERSTAND YOU
SHE'S YOUR MOM AFTER ALL
BOTH OF YOU WILL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER
EVEN GETTING LOST.
IT'S FINE
Maron
Why are you crying too?
BECAUSE YOU'RE WITH ME, I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU

...SOMEDAY I'LL COME BACK TO SEE YOU, SANAE.
LIKE THIS DOG RUNNING RIGHT BACK TO HIS OWNER
BELIEVE IN ME
SOUTA-KUN
SOUTA-KUN

IF WE HEAD TO THE TRAIN STATION NOW WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CATCH THE LAST TRAIN
BUT WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR SOMEONE TO SHOW US THE WAY FIRST
startle..!!

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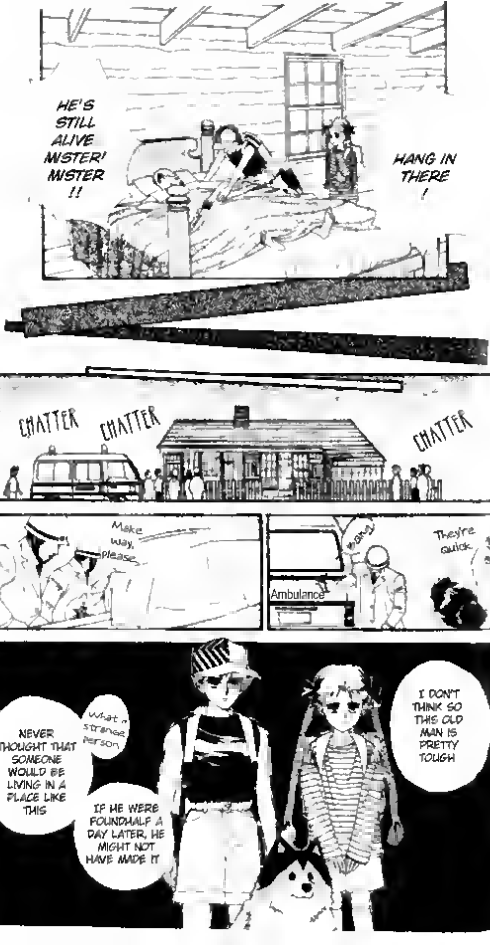
Dash
BLUE ?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER? SUDDENLY SPEEDING UP LIKE THAT
THE LIGHT !!
A HOUSE! WELL DONE, BLUE!
EXCUSE ME
WE GOT LOST.
IS ANYONE HERE !?
Moan
Moan
BLUE ?

WHAT, BLUE ?
Kyaaaa
WHAT HAP-PENED, SANAE !!?
THERE IS...
A DEAD PERSON ON THE BED !!

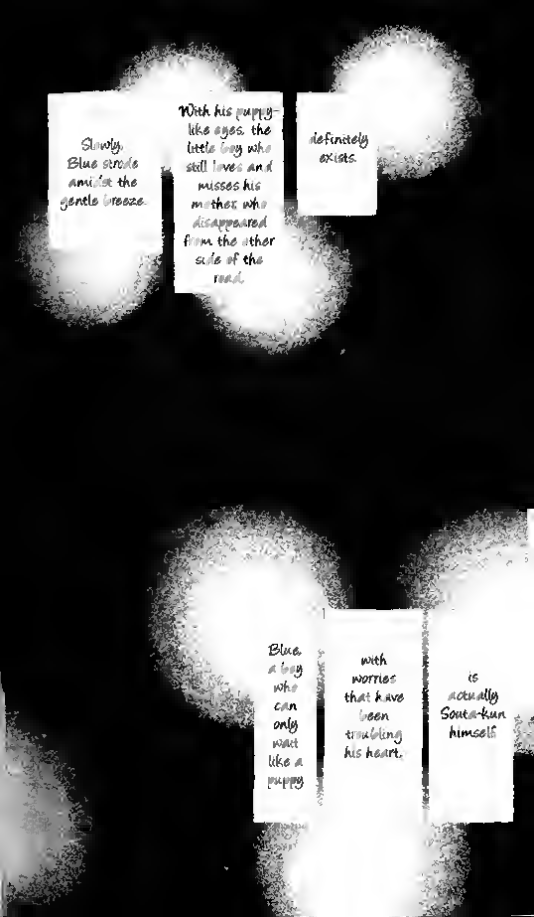

HE'S STILL ALIVE MISTER! MISTER !!
HANG IN THERE !
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
Make way, please
Ambulance
Ready
They're quick
NEVER THOUGHT THAT SOMEONE WOULD BE LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS
What a strange person
IF HE WERE FOUND HALF A DAY LATER, HE MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE IT
I DON'T THINK SO THIS OLD MAN IS PRETTY TOUGH

HE WAS IN A CRITICAL CONDITION, BUT WE FOUND SIGNS SHOWING THAT HE MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THE BED TO FEED HIS DOG.
Oh
THIS OLD MAN MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE IT
SO HE LET BLUE OUT WITH A NOTE ON HER COLLAR
BUT BLUE DIDN'T LEAVE HIM
SHE WENT OUT TO FIND SOMEONE TO TELL THEM HER OWNER'S CONDITION
IF SHE DIDN'T LOVE HIM,
SIREN
SIREN
SIREN
SHE WOULDN'T HAVE RUN SO FAST
NO-BODY
IS HERE ANY MORE

BLUE
WE HAVE TO GO TO THE STATION NOW. WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG? YOU WILL SURELY BE FED THERE
AND IF YOU'RE WELL-BEHAVED, THEY MIGHT LET YOU LIVE IN THE BACK OF THE STATION
WHAT?
YOU WANNA WAIT FOR YOUR OWNER HERE?
YOUR OWNER IS NOW SAFE AT THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF YOU
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE ANYMORE
IF YOU'RE GONNA KEEP WAITING HERE LIKE THIS YOU'LL STARVE TO DEATH, YOU KNOW?
HEY, I TOLD YOU, LET'S GO TOGETHER
HEY!

YOUR OLD MAN HAS LEFT ALREADY. HE WON'T COME BACK HERE
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DIE OR WAIT FOR HIM FOREVER,
HE'LL PROBABLY FORGET ABOUT YOU ANYWAY.
IT'S USELESS NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU WAIT FOR HIM. IT'S YOU THAT WILL BE STARVING TO DEATH, UNTIL ONLY YOUR BONES ARE LEFT.
SOUTA-KUN!
IDIOT! YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT !!

SOLITA-KUN
LET'S GO HOME


Slowly,
Blue strode
amidst the
gentle breeze.
With his puppy-
like eyes, the
little boy who
still loves and
misses his
mother who
disappeared
from the other
side of the
road,
definitely
exists.
Blue,
a boy
who
can
only
react
like a
puppy
with
worries
that have
been
troubling
his heart,
is
actually
Sousuke-kun
himself!

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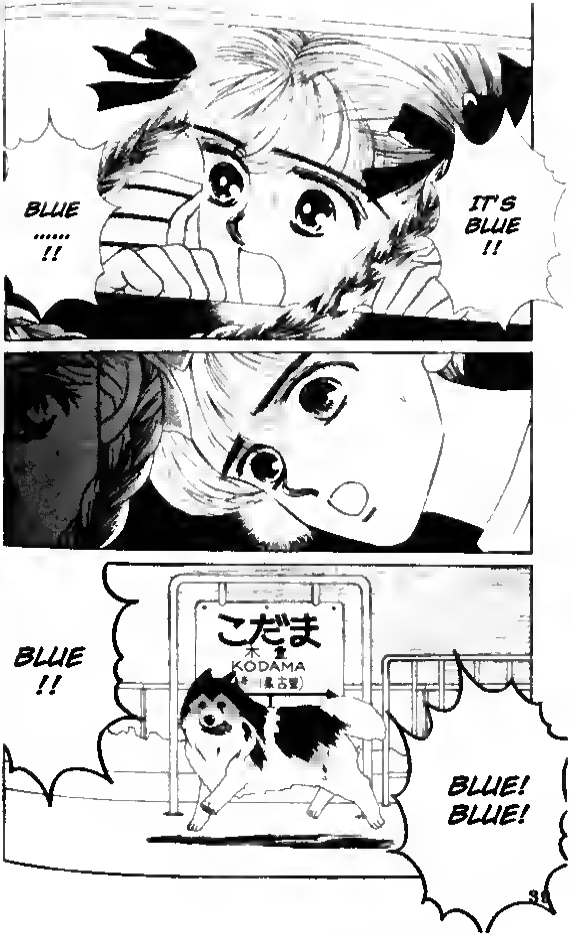
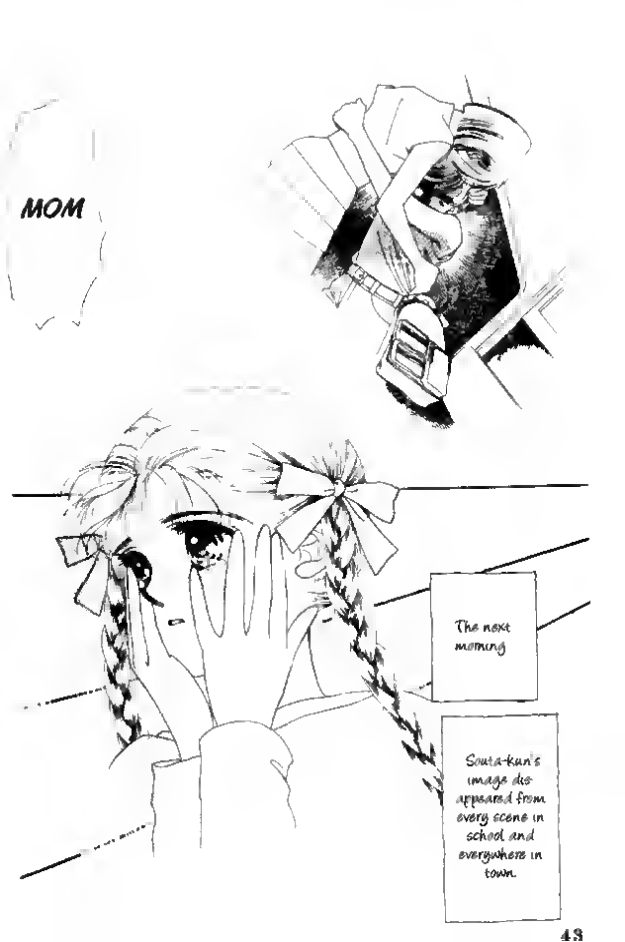

BLUE ..... !!
IT'S BLUE !!
こだま
KODAMA
BLUE !!
BLUE! BLUE!

Wuff
Wuff
Wuff

SOUTA-KUN...
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
Step

HOW LUCKY
I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT COME BACK ON THE LAST TRAIN
I GOT ON THE TRAIN 5 STATIONS BEFORE THIS ONE AND I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU
SOUTA ...
PLEASE ...
PLEASE DON'T EVER LEAVE ME LIKE THIS AGAIN
MOM ...


MOM
The next morning
Souta-kun's image disappeared from every scene in school and everywhere in town.

Not one letter or call from him.
or even a postcard to keep in touch.
When Sakura blossom season arrived,
I became a junior-high student.

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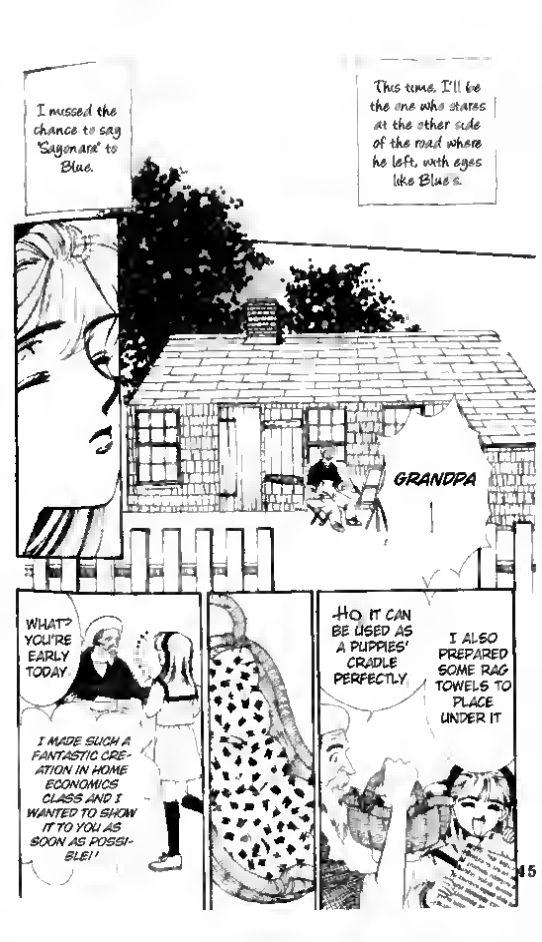
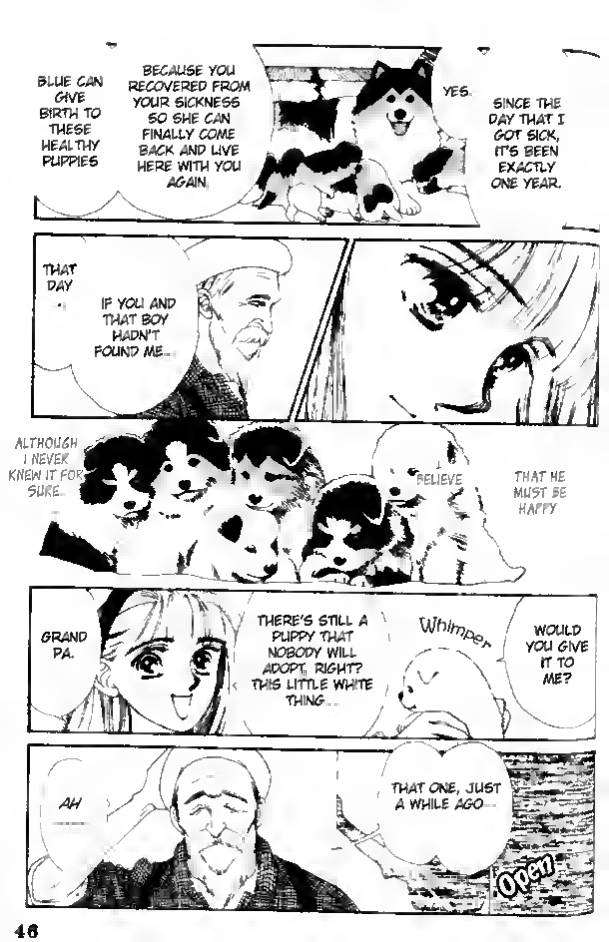
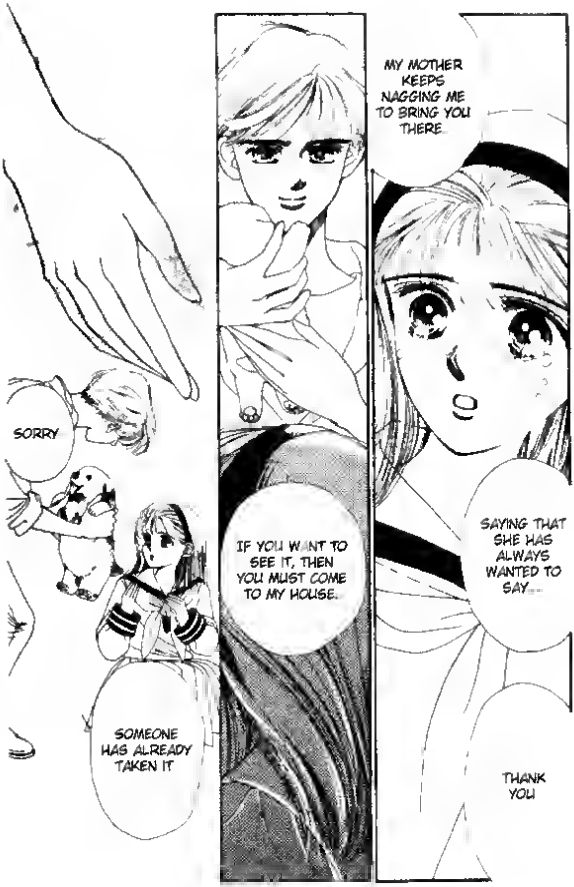
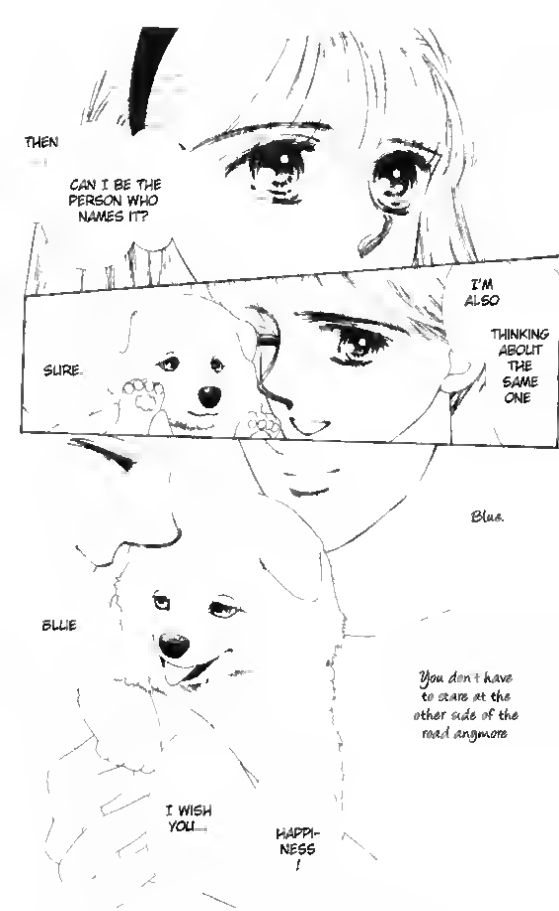

I missed the chance to say 'Sayonara' to Blue.
This time, I'll be the one who stares at the other side of the road where he left, with eyes like Blue's.
GRANDPA
WHAT? YOU'RE EARLY TODAY
I MADE SUCH A FANTASTIC CREATION IN HOME ECONOMICS CLASS AND I WANTED TO SHOW IT TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
HO, IT CAN BE USED AS A PUPPIES' CRADLE PERFECTLY.
I ALSO PREPARED SOME RAG TOWELS TO PLACE UNDER IT


BLUE CAN GIVE BIRTH TO THESE HEALTHY PUPPIES
BECAUSE YOU RECOVERED FROM YOUR SICKNESS SO SHE CAN FINALLY COME BACK AND LIVE HERE WITH YOU AGAIN.
YES.
SINCE THE DAY THAT I GOT SICK, IT'S BEEN EXACTLY ONE YEAR.
THAT DAY...
IF YOU AND THAT BOY HADN'T FOUND ME...
ALTHOUGH I NEVER KNEW IT FOR SURE...
I BELIEVE
THAT HE MUST BE HAPPY
GRAND PA.
THERE'S STILL A PUPPY THAT NOBODY WILL ADOPT, RIGHT? THIS LITTLE WHITE THING...
Whimper
WOULD YOU GIVE IT TO ME?
AH.....
THAT ONE, JUST A WHILE AGO...
Open


MY MOTHER KEEPS NAGGING ME TO BRING YOU THERE.
SAYING THAT SHE HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY...
THANK YOU
IF YOU WANT TO SEE IT, THEN YOU MUST COME TO MY HOUSE.
SORRY
SOMEONE HAS ALREADY TAKEN IT



♡END♡

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